We all live downstream of history and upstream of the future.

CURRENTS HISTORY

FALL 2006

COURTESY OF UNITED STATES HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL MUSEUM

Jewish women and children who have been selected for death at Auschwitz-Birkenau walk toward the gas chambers.

A Courageous Voice for Humanity

by Rafael Medoff

During the Holocaust, one of the strongest voices in Washington for rescue of Jewish refugees was one of the unlikeliest—Elbert D. Thomas, a former Mormon missionary from Utah.

Thomas had little to gain from standing up for the Jews. There were few Jewish voters in Utah and little public interest in U.S. government action to aid refugees from Hitler. But Thomas chose principles over politics.

To get a better understanding of what motivated Thomas, I met with his daughter, Esther Thomas Grover. Esther, at 91, vividly recalled her father's unusual career. Thomas grew up in Salt Lake City in the late 1800s, where his family experienced prejudice because of their Mormon beliefs—which, she said, shaped his sympathy for the Jews.

During 1907–1912, he headed the Mormon church's mission in Japan. On his way back from the Far East, Thomas visited Palestine (then under Turkish rule) and became deeply convinced of the need to re-establish the ancient Jewish State there.

Story continued on page 2

"We have talked; we have sympathized; we have expressed our horror; the time to act is long past due."

EDITOR'S NOTE

As *Currents* was almost ready to go to press, Hezbollah forces in Lebanon began shelling Israel, and Israel began shelling Lebanon. Ironically, this story about a Utah senator's desire to rescue the Jews from Hitler and help them establish a homeland was our lead story.

If history tells us anything, it is that the present is rooted in the past. This story does not begin to explain the complexities of the past and all the events that have led to today's violence. But it does demonstrate how hard issues can last for years, how they don't just go away if they are not justly resolved.

What we hope this story shows is the passion and efforts of one person to help millions of human beings who were being treated brutally. We hope it shows the effects of compassion in the face of inhumanity. We hope it shows how crucial it is to speak out—and act—when one group is oppressing others.

We hope it is the kind of history that will make a difference today.

—Kristen Rogers

CURRENTS is a quarterly publication of Utah State History. Send letters, inquiries, submissions, and calendar items to Kristen Rogers, editor, at 801/533-3542 or krogers@utah.gov. Address Utah State Historical Society membership inquiries to Kent Powell at 801/533-3520 or kpowell@utah.gov.

A Courageous Voice, continued

The plight of the Jews, Thomas said, was "the last question on which we can afford to be silent or evasive."

After completing his Ph.D. and teaching at the University of Utah, Thomas plunged into politics in 1932, winning election to the first of three terms in the U.S. Senate. On a visit to Germany in 1934, Thomas "saw first-hand what Hitler was doing to the Jews, and when he came back he spoke about it, warning that Hitler was a danger," Esther said. "But nobody wanted to believe him."

When news of the Nazi mass murder of Europe's Jews was confirmed in 1942, Thomas called for U.S. rescue action. In a 1942 speech in New York City, he said, "It is the first time in history that the physical extermination of a whole people—the Jewish people—has become declared policy, in fact, one of the major policies and war aims of a powerful, aggressive nation." He called the rescue issue "the last question on which we can afford to be silent or evasive."

Esther told me that she would often go hear her father speak on the floor of the Senate, where "he was a strong and convincing speaker" on the plight of the Jews.

Thomas became active in the Emergency Committee to Save the Jewish People of Europe. He signed on to newspaper ads criticizing the Allies' refugee policy and co-chaired a 1943 conference on rescue, which challenged the Roosevelt administration's claim that nothing could be done to help the Jews except winning the war. Although a loyal Democrat and New Dealer, the Utah Senator boldly broke ranks with FDR over the refugees.

Thomas also played a key role in advancing a Congressional resolution calling for creation of a government rescue agency. The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee stalled the resolution, but when he took ill one day, Thomas quickly introduced the measure, which passed unanimously.

As the preamble to the resolution stated, "The problem is essentially a humanitarian one.... We have talked; we have sympathized; we have expressed our horror; the time to act is long past due."

Meanwhile, senior aides to Treasury Secretary Henry Morgenthau Jr. learned that State Department officials had been obstructing rescue opportunities. Armed with this information and the power of the committee resolution, Morgenthau went to FDR in January 1944 to convince him that "you have either got to move very fast, or the Congress of the United States will do it for you." FDR responded by establishing the War Refugee Board.

During the final fifteen months of the war, the Board played a major role in saving some 200,000 Jews and 20,000 non-Jews. Among other things, it helped finance the life-saving work of the famous Swedish diplomat Raoul Wallenberg.

Throughout 1944, Thomas continued to promote rescue. He proposed a Congressional resolution urging U.S. pressure on England to open Palestine to Jewish refugees. During a speech over the CBS Radio network, Thomas declared that the British had an "inescapable moral duty" to announce "that every Hebrew will be admitted into Palestine." CBS officials, apparently uncomfortable that a Senator was criticizing an American ally, censored those portions of the address in which Thomas took the British to task. Protests compelled CBS to publicly apologize to Thomas and to broadcast the original speech in its entirety.

In 1945, Senator Thomas visited the Allied-liberated Nazi death camps. There he came face to face with the horrors about which he had spoken so passionately on the Senate floor.

STATE HISTORY PHOTO

The Senator and his wife Edna Harker Thomas, one month before her death in 1942. Thomas served as U.S. Senator from 1932 to 1950.

Esther Grover told me about the day her father returned from that trip. "It was the first time I had ever seen my father unshaven," she recalled. "The camps left an impression on him that he couldn't shake." Thomas later said that, as someone from "a religion and a nation whose fundamental principles are based upon the concept of the worth of the individual," he was profoundly "shocked ... to observe situations where individual rights, personal dignity, and governmental protection of the individual were shattered.... Those experiences hurt me spiritually."

Most of the international community had stood by silently while the Nazis had committed those atrocities. But not Elbert Thomas. His was a powerful and principled voice for rescue, and it played a key role in the campaign that ultimately helped bring about the saving of more than 200,000 lives.

Most of the international community stood by silently while the Nazis committed atrocities. But not Elbert Thomas.

COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR

Esther Thomas Grover, the Senator's daughter.

Dr. Rafael Medoff is director of The David S. Wyman Institute for Holocaust Studies. This article is adapted from two articles on the Institute's website. For the complete articles and much more information on the Holocaust, see **wymaninstitute.org**.

About the opening photo: The views or opinions expressed in this article, and the context in which the image is used, do not necessarily reflect the views or policy of, nor imply approval or endorsement by, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

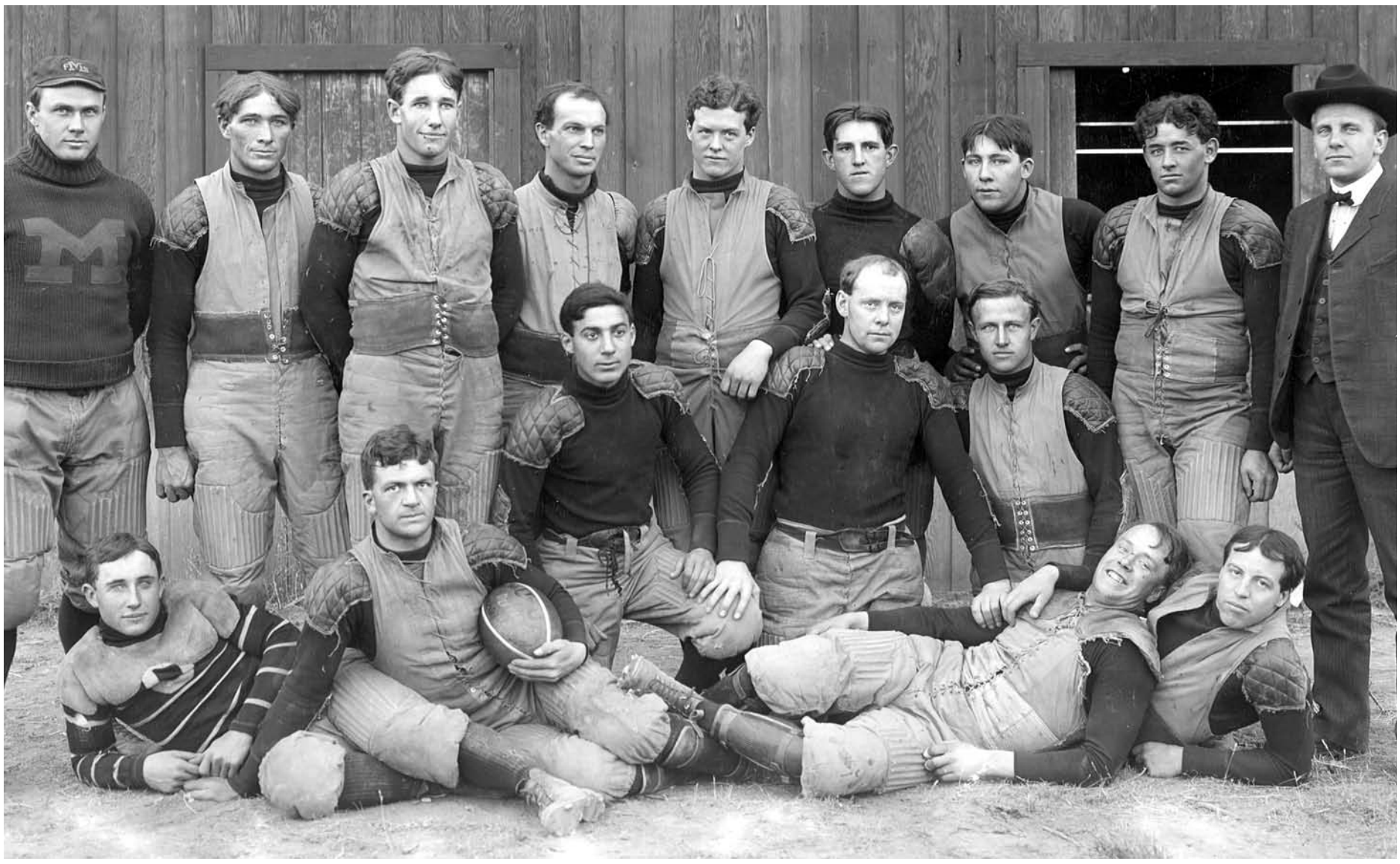
WHERE'S THAT?

Identify the historic building in this photo and win a copy of *Utah's Historic Architecture 1847 – 1940: A Guide*, by Thomas Carter and Peter Goss. Send your response (one guess per contestant) to Where's That, 300 S. Rio Grande Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84101. Responses must be postmarked by October 15, 2006. A drawing will be held of the winners to determine who receives the book.

Answer to the last Where's That?

The historic structure shown in the Summer 2006 *Currents* is the historic San Rafael Swinging Bridge. This bridge over the San Rafael River at Buckhorn Wash was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s and was restored in 1994. The Corpsmen took on many projects, including roads, ponds, and bridges. The bridge they built at Buckhorn Wash was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1996.

More than 40 people identified the bridge—some of them perhaps helped by the fact that we also showed the bridge in our San Rafael Swell photo essay. We're pleased that you are reading Currents! Thank you, all, for your participation. The person who was selected in the drawing to receive *Utah's Historic Architecture* is Clifton Jenkins of Morgan, Utah.



The Godfather of Ute Football

by Parry D. Sorensen

Most of the college stadiums in the country are named after famous coaches, like the LaVell Edwards Stadium at BYU, or after generous donors, like the University of Utah's Rice-Eccles Stadium. But the U's first stadium, used from 1900 to 1926, was named after a young professor of Greek and Latin named Byron Cummings.

I was eight years old in 1924 when I saw my first football game on Cummings Field. I was the guest of Maurine Whipple, who later wrote the novel *The Giant Joshua; s*he was boarding with my aunt and got a student ticket for me to see the Utes beat BYU. A halftime skit had a bearded man in a stovepipe hat leading a long procession of women and children across the field. The symbolism was obvious.

We lived only three blocks from campus, so I saw a few more games at Cummings Field and even sold hot dogs in the stands on Thanksgiving Day in 1926, when the Utes and Aggies were both undefeated and the conference championship was at stake. Utah won 34-0. That was the last game played on Cummings Field. The bleachers were torn down while the new Ute stadium was being built. Since then, the name of Byron Cummings has been largely forgotten.

According to Professor Walter Kerr, who wrote a history of Utah athletics, "Cummings believed that athletics were an important part of our culture and not a luxury. He considered the development of one's body vital to the development of one's intellect."

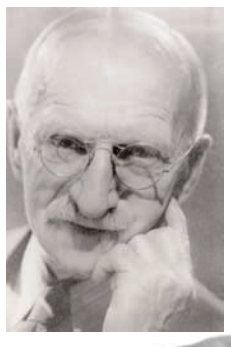
Within a year after he left Rutgers in 1893 to join the U faculty, Byron Cummings started an athletic association to support the team and served as its first president and treasurer. One of his favorite ways of raising funds was to mingle among the spectators on the sidelines of the football games and collect their "dues," since they didn't have to buy tickets. This was when the campus was located where West High School stands today and football games were played on a field near Ninth South and Main Street.

Besides his teaching and association activities, Cummings volunteered to coach the football team for the 1897 season. It was his first and last experience as a coach; his team won only one game and lost six.

When the campus moved to the hill in 1900, Cummings had the opportunity to give more help to University athletics. He was one of three faculty members assigned to choose a site for the football field. Then he led a group, mostly students, in clearing sagebrush and hauling sand and soil to the site. A few years later, another Cummings crew of students surveyed and dug trenches for a sprinkling system.

When construction began on the new stands, students frequently worked along with the regular workers to speed things along. Cummings and students had a big

Story continued on page 9



Cummings helped choose the site for a new football field, then he cleared sagebrush, dug sprinkler trenches, and built a fence.

Photos: ***The University of Utah football team in October 1905; Dr. Byron Cummings; and the Utes practicing on Cummings Field in 1907.*** **On the cover:** ***Ute team captain Peterson in 1905.***

SAVING AN AMERICAN TREASURE

Ten archaeological sites in Utah's Canyon Country will be stabilized and protected

by Adrienne Babbitt

A thousand years can take its toll on any home, particularly one that was built of sandstone, adobe mortar, and straw—and that has been visited by thousands of people.

The homes of Puebloan people (also known as the Anasazi) who built cliff dwellings in southeastern Utah beginning in 700 A.D. have started to show wear and tear over the years. As a part of the centennial of the Antiquities Act of 1906, the Bureau of Land Management will try to turn back the clock by repairing and stabilizing ten outstanding archaeological sites in the Grand Gulch, Cedar Mesa, and Comb Ridge areas.

This rugged country attracts visitors from around the world. The BLM estimates that each of these sites is visited by 2,000 to 6,000 people annually.

Some of the first and worst impacts to these sites came when looters dug at them and stole pottery and other artifacts during the late 1800s (before archaeological sites on the public lands were protected by law). Unfortunately, human impact did not cease after the passage of the Antiquities Act; looters still damage sites. And scientists now worry that these special places are also being loved to death. As more people visit these sites, information and directions are posted on unofficial web sites, attracting visitors to areas that are fragile and sensitive. If visited incorrectly, walls can topple when leaned on, rock art can be obscured by campfire smoke damage, and the very few artifacts that remain can disappear in visitors' pockets.

Long-term solutions for preserving these dwellings for the next thousand years will require a mix of managed visitation, public education, monitoring, and law enforcement. However, the first step is to stabilize and document the sites so they are better prepared for visitation.

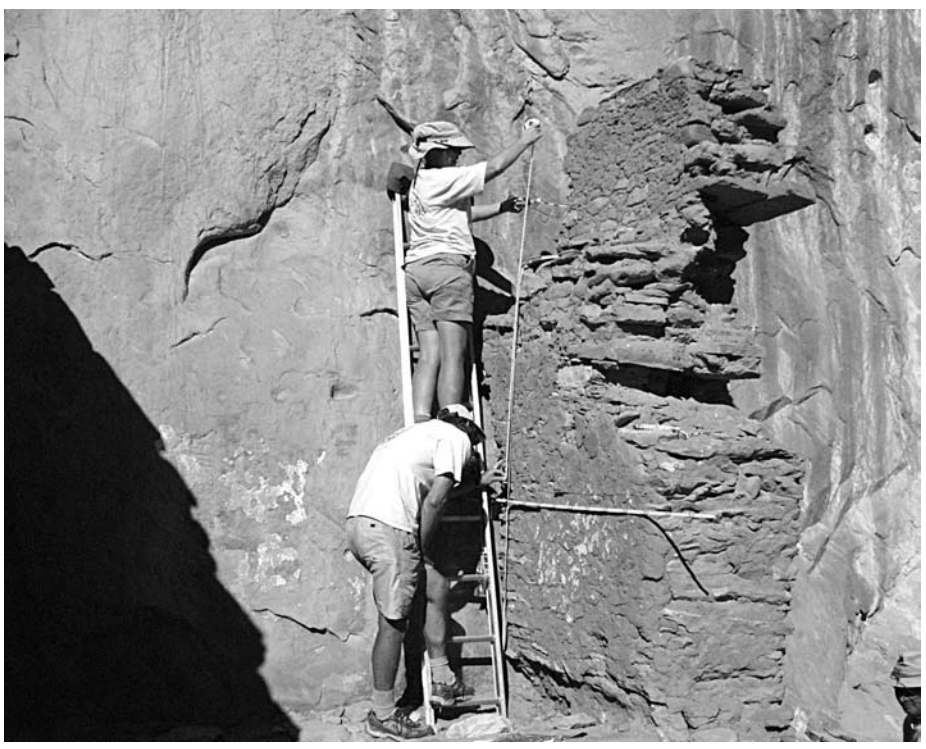
To assist in this effort, BLM applied for and won a 'Save America's Treasures' grant. The agency will receive $225,000 to hire professional archaeologists to document and preserve the sites—that is, if the BLM is able to tap an equal amount of matching funds from other sources. The Utah State Legislature, Native American groups, and local communities have already contributed $135,000; however, the BLM is still short $90,000. If funding is secured, work will begin next year.

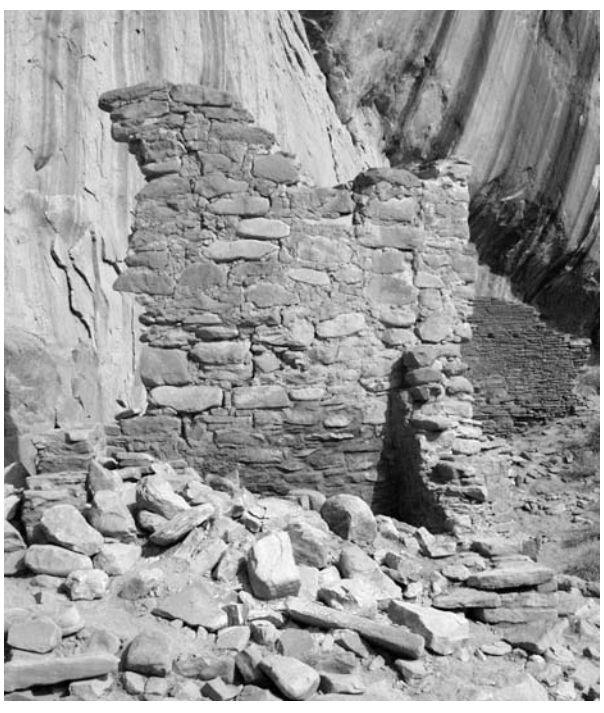
"These places not only hold special significance to local communities; they are also invaluable to all Americans, as they reveal incredible discoveries about the people who inhabited this region thousands of years ago," says Sandra Meyers, Monticello BLM Field Manager. "In all senses, they are an American Treasure."

The multi-year project will expand understanding about the sites. Detailed documentation of the sites during stabilization will yield new information on how each of the sites was used over time and who inhabited them.

The project will also enhance heritage tourism opportunities. "This is the first time a Save America's Treasures Grant has been awarded for a project in our area. We are so glad that the BLM took the initiative to seek funding to protect these special places," says Cleal Bradford, executive director for the Four Corners Heritage Council. "The public is already visiting these sites, so solidifying them will be prepare them for this visitation and prevent damage from occurring."

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BLM





Top and bottom photos: *Before and after: Due to deterioration from weathering and visitation, the wall of this ancient puebloan structure was at risk of falling over. In order to restore the structural integrity, the hole at the base of the wall was filled.*
Middle: *A crew of archaeologists document and stabilize a site in Arch Canyon in San Juan County, Utah. Professional archaeologists will conduct similar improvements to ten sites in the same general area through the Save America's Treasures project.*

What the BLM will do

Architectural specialists will visit the sites and assess the condition of each on a room-by-room, wall-by wall basis. Then they will map the site, specifically recording and ranking conditions and threats. Although the general condition of the sites is known, the specific locations of wall failures, damage to sensitive plasters, distribution of wood available for tree-ring dating, etc., are not known.

Archaeologists will use this data to determine the best treatments. Scientists prefer to use the least invasive strategies when possible, to preserve the integrity of the site. Silicone drip lines, which are easily reversible, will be installed on cliff edges to divert runoff water from impacting the structures. In other places, unstable walls will be repaired with plaster and masonry when necessary. Each site will have a preservation plan with a map and graphics. Sites will be placed on a monitoring schedule for periodic revisits and maintenance.

BLM also plans to develop a model for 'virtual' archeological interpretation of the Alkali Ridge National Historic Landmark. Unlike the nine sites located in remote alcoves, this ridgetop site is subject to vehicle damage because many valuable architectural remnants are below the surface and not "showy" to the casual visitor. In addition to digital mapping and physical conservation, BLM intends to create a virtual report that will preclude much of the scientific need, or other public need, to visit the site. In the future, some tourists may simply visit Alkali Ridge via a website.

How to Help

Monticello BLM has partnered with the Four Corners Heritage Council and Canyonlands Natural History Association to assist in securing the matching funds for the grant.

Persons interested in contributing matching funds should direct donations to 'Save America's Treasures Project,' Canyonlands Natural History Association, 3031 S. Highway 191, Moab, UT 84532 (435/259-6003). For information about the project, contact Nancy Shearin, archaeologist, or Sandra Meyers, field office manager, at the Monticello BLM office (435/587-1500).

Adrienne Babbitt is public affairs specialist for the Utah office of the Bureau of Land Management.

Rehab, re-use, and 'rithmetic

Here's a little-known fact: Over the past several years, State History has helped create some 851 low-income housing units. Why is that? We're not in the direct business of low-income housing. But we do help owners of historic buildings get tax credits for historic preservation. And that is where the magic lies.

Take a great old building, then factor in tax credits for low-income housing *and* historic preservation, and it all adds up to a very attractive investment. One spectacular example of this arithmetic is the Maeser School project in Provo.

Provo's Maeser School is the ultimate win-win-win scenario. Just a few years ago, the wrecking balls were all but poised to raze the 107-year-old building. But now, with State History's assistance, the Provo Housing Authority has rescued it and given it new life. The citizens of Provo get to keep an incredible historic building; the building is receiving a first-class renovation; low-income seniors will have a wonderful place to live; and investors will make money.

The school is such a terrific project that HGTV awarded it a Restore America grant of $50,000—one of eleven such grants given in 2006. The grants are given to projects that help revitalize communities—and that preserve community spirit as they preserve the physical reminders of the past. HGTV will be doing a show featuring the building.

The old Maeser School, located at 150 S. 500 East in Provo, will provide 31 beautiful apartment spaces for low-income senior citizens.

"This is the best building I have ever seen."

According to Doug Carlson, director of the Provo Housing Authority, when construction is finished in September, the Maeser School Apartments will offer 31 very nice affordable housing units for seniors whose income is below 40 percent of the area's median income. For those who can't afford even the low rent, the city will provide housing vouchers and utility allowances.

How is all this magic accomplished? Tax credits are key. State History advises building owners on how to earn the preservation tax credits. Even though the Provo Housing Authority, as a government agency, can't use the tax credits, it could sell both the low-income and preservation credits to investors.

Without the combination of low-income and preservation incentives, the Maeser School building, built in 1898, would likely be just a memory now. And that would be a shame, because this is an exceptionally fine building. For one thing, it's an architectural gem, designed by Richard C. Watkins. But it's also exceedingly well built.

Tim Knaak of Paulsen Construction, is overseeing the renovation. "Paulsen Construction specializes in historic preservation, and this is the best building I have ever seen," he says. "There's only one stress fracture—in a 108-year-old building. That's unusual. This building is plumb, level, and square. The original architect and builders did a good job."

Incredibly, the stone foundation is mainly marble, and it extends five feet underground. The interior lumber was "immaculate," says Knaak. Usually old wood is cracked and dried, but this was so good that the builders reused a lot of it. Details that usually deteriorate with time, like the cornice, are in amazingly good condition. The excellent masonry shows evidence of the workers' pride in their work. They built the school in a pyramidal form, tapering slightly from base to top—so the building is very strong.

Nelson Knight, tax credit specialist for State History, points out the brickwork above the Maeser School's front door.

The current architectural plan, by Casey MacDonough of CRSA, innovatively takes advantage of all these qualities.

Even more important than the building's structural qualities are the intangible benefits the building will bring the community, State Historic Preservation Officer Wilson Martin points out. "Older people in an established neighborhood," he says. "What a wonderful place for them to be."

Senior citizens must think so, too. While the building was under construction, many stopped by to inquire and look at the emerging apartment spaces, and the Provo Housing Authority received several applications.

The wonderful thing is, perhaps some of the same students who learned their 3 R's in this building a few decades ago will be among those who will soon settle into bright new apartments within those same walls.

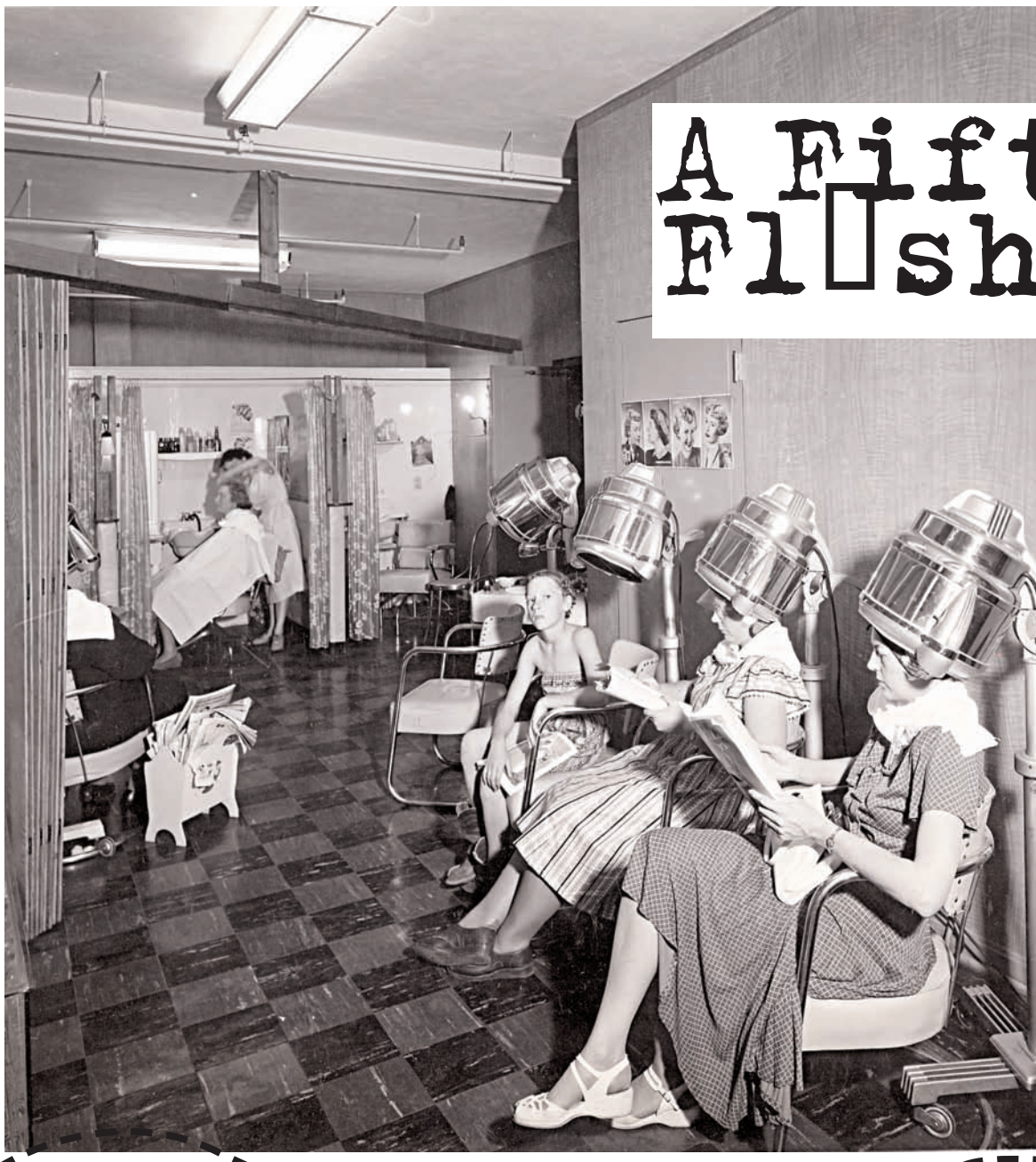
WHO'S THAT?

Karl G. Maeser (1828-1901) is the mystery man on our cover. When we visited the school named after Maeser, Doug Carlson, director of the Provo Housing Authority, called him "the Teddy Roosevelt of Utah education," and we think that's a good description.

Maeser himself visited the school in November 1902. He wrote inspirational quotes on four chalkboards and added his signature.

The school was overcome with pride and preserved those quotes for decades (covered with plexiglass). BYU now has possession of the chalkboards and quotes and plans to display them at its Joseph Smith Building.

Standard Oil Service Station in 1951. This was when gas stations were service *stations and attendants pumped your gas, checked your oil and tires, and cleaned your windshield.*



A Fift
Fl sh

Above: *Children and dogs living a quiet suburban life in 1951. This is an LDS Primary Association photo.*

Below right: *In 1951, as this photo shows, hamburgers were 19 cents; cheeseburgers—26 cents; milk-shakes—26 cents; fries—10 cents; apple turnovers—19 cents. Sounds like a good deal! But then, the country's average annual wage at the time was only $2,548.*

Suburbs. The uranium boom. Marian Anderson. Nikita Kruschev. J.Bracken Lee. Lord of the Flies. Beatniks. Polygamy raids. Liking Ike. Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. The polio vaccine. *Rebel Without a Cause.* Atomic bomb tests. Elvis Presley. Catcher in the Rye. Salt Flat races. Segregation. *I Love Lucy.* It takes more than a few words or images to completely capture the 1950s, but these photos from State History's collections give some of the flavor. For more '50s flavor, see information about State History's Nifty Fifties event on page 8.

Below: *The General Insurance Office Interior, 1959, gives a glimpse of 1950s worklife.*

ties
block

Above: A *1951 display window at the Beers-Bigelow store shows some labor-saving devices newly available to those who did the household laundry. (These were usually women, of course. The woman behind bars is trying to "Escape from Summer Washdays!")*

Right*: A matron who has probably washed dishes by hands for decades has won a dishwasher in a promotional contest and is receiving congratulations from the store manager. (1951)*

Top middle*: Women get beautiful at the beauty salon in the Darling Building, on the southwest corner of Main Street and 300 South, Salt Lake City. (1950)*

Left*: A crew at Goodyear Tire and Rubber readies Mickey Thompson's car,* Challenger*, for a run on the Salt Flats. (1959)*

A group of mere mortals poses with United Artists movie stars (can you pick out the stars?) We believe that the actress in the middle is Marie Windsor, who was born in Marysvale, Utah. If you recognize anyone else, please let us know.

NEWS AND NOTES

Annual Meeting: Something for everyone

The Utah State Historical Society Annual Meeting, September 14-16, will be an exciting blend of learning and discovery, networking and entertainment. It is designed for a diversity of folks: members of heritage organizations, professionals, educators, students, history aficionados, and curious people who don't know much about Utah history—yet.

In a nutshell, here is the schedule:

Thursday, September 14
Workshops and meetings:
—Certified Local Governments Workshop
—Board of State History
—*UHQ* Board of Editors
—Utah Oral History Consortium
Reception: 6 p.m.
Evening Program: 7 p.m. "Utah in the 1850s," address by David Bigler. USHS Annual Awards.

Friday, September 15
History Sessions: 9 a.m.–5:15 p.m. Papers, panels, films, and presentations
Evening Activities: 6–9 p.m. Utah's Nifty Fifties celebration: exhibit, art, slides, presentation, music, and more.

Saturday, September 16
Tours: Utah War Sites tour by the Oregon-California Trails Association. Homes tour by the Utah Heritage Foundation.

For more information, see **history.utah.gov** or call 801/533-3520.

A window on the past

In November 1922 Melvin Alvey met a young man named Everett Ruess traveling through the town of Escalante with his two burros. Alvey talked with Ruess for half an hour. "He said he was going down to the desert to write and to explore the country," Alvey later said. "And I can remember saying to him, 'Well, you're traveling pretty light,' and he said, 'Well, I don't need very much.'"

Ruess said he planned to be back in six weeks, but Alvey remembers that what he had on the burros couldn't sustain a person for more than a week—especially in the cold.

Of course, Ruess's disappearance on that trip has become one of the West's most intriguing mysteries.

Alvey's reminiscences of Ruess and of his own life as Escalante's water master are part of a remarkable collection of oral histories. The Southern Utah Oral History Project, a partnership between State History, the Bureau of Land Management, and local counties and communities, has collected more than 230 oral histories describing life in and around Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

The interviews cover a wide range of topics—such as making head cheese from butchered pigs, delivering "stuck" lambs, traveling by horse and buggy over dirt roads, trapping predators, welcoming home World War I soldiers, stacking hay, hearing the radio for the first time, and dancing.

The project is creating a priceless window on the past, says State History director Phil Notarianni. "Some years from now, this way of life will have disappeared. It is critically important to capture these memories now, before we lose them."

Transcripts of the interviews are in Manuscript Collection B-1421 at the Utah History Research Center (300 S. Rio Grande Street, Salt Lake City) and at local repositories near the national monument. Some transcripts are also online at **www.ut.blm.gov/monument**

Anyone who knows individuals whose history should be recorded can contact Kent Powell at State History at 801/533-3520.

Thank you, Lois!

For more than 20 years, Lois Lott has volunteered some 16,000 hours with State History. Her work helping to organize our collections has earned her the prestigious President's Call to Service Lifetime Award, signed by President Bush himself. This award is given to American citizens who have volunteered for 4,000 hours or more over the course of a lifetime.

Thank you, Site Stewards!

The Bureau of Land Management has given a special award to the Utah Southeast Site Stewards honoring the thousands of hours the group has spent helping the BLM protect cultural resources on public lands. Site Stewards educate visitors to archaeological sites and monitor the sites for evidence of damage from overuse, natural processes, and vandalism.

The Edge of the Cedars Museum in Blanding coordinates the Utah Southeast Site Stewards Program, a partnership between BLM, Forest Service, National Parks Service, State History, and Utah State Parks.

If you are interested in becoming a Site Steward, call state archaeologist Kevin Jones at 801/533-3524 or contact your local BLM office.

Summer projects at State History

This summer, architect Don Hartley assisted with two workshops sponsored by the Bear River Heritage Area. Participants learned restoration skills and at the same time helped barn owners in Cache Valley rehabilitate their barns.

Assistant state archaeologist Ron Rood directed a dig at Mushroom Springs on Antelope Island. Two things made this excavation special: first, students from Escalante Elementary did the digging, screening, measuring, and recording. Second, the students seem to have found new evidence of the 3,000-year-old Desert Archaic culture at Mushroom Springs.

Join the adventure

The BLM invites the public to "Join the Adventure" of discovering America's cultural resources. A new BLM website will help you do that. Find information on avocational groups for history, archaeology, and paleontology; volunteering opportunities in archaeology and preservation; backyard conservation of cultural sites; the Forest Service's Passport in Time program; Project Archaeology teaching materials; virtual site visits; homework help on archaeology; the Jr. Explorer program; archaeological field schools for lifetime learners, and a lot more.
blm.gov/heritage/adventures

Between Fences

The Utah Humanities Council is bringing the Smithsonian exhibit *Between Fences* to Utah. The exhibit explores the cultural, physical, and historical roles of fences. The schedule is:

Sept 16–Oct 27, 2006
Heritage Museum of Layton

Nov 4, 2006–Jan 5, 2007
American West Heritage Center, Wellsville

Jan 13–March 16, 2007
John Hutchings Museum of Natural History, Lehi

March 24–May 11, 2007
Anasazi State Park Museum, Boulder

May 19–July 7, 2007
Delta City Library
For more information, see **utahhumanities.org**

Preservation grants

Tourism Cares for Tomorrow, the tourism industry's nonprofit organization, awards grants to worthy tourism-related nonprofit organizations for preservation of exceptional cultural, historic, or natural sites. Application deadline is November 1.

For more information, see **tourismcaresfortomorrow.org/tourismcares**

Research lectures during October

October is Archives Month, and the Utah History Research Center will be participating in a series of Research at Noon lectures presented by the Utah State Archives. Lectures will be presented every Wednesday and Friday in October at the Rio Grande Depot. For details please call (801) 533-3535 or visit **historyresearch.utah.gov**.

20 years of *Blue Mountain Shadows*

Blue Mountain Shadows, a magazine on the archaeology, history, natural history, and folklore of San Juan County, began publishing in 1986. This remarkable publication is produced by the San Juan Historical Commission, which has included articles on all kinds of topics—from 12,000 years ago to relatively recent events. Back issues are available. For more information or to subscribe, see **bluemountainshadows.org**.

Smokers, take note

An 1866 notice in the *Deseret News* said this about tobacco: "A great many more people use the 'weed' than ought to. It costs a good round sum to the Territory annually. If we will use tobacco, better save the money and grow the article. Seed can be procured at the [LDS] Historian's office, gratuitously. All who wish to begin growing the plant can call there and obtain a supply… "

This publication has been partially funded with a matching-grant-in-aid from the National Park Service. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior. Regulations of the U.S. Department of the Interior strictly prohibit unlawful discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or handicap. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility operated by a recipient of federal assistance should contact: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C St., NW, Room 1221, Washington, DC 20240; 202/208-7822; fax 202/219-2301.

BOOKMARKS

I subscribe to John Ruskin's dictum: "If a book is worth reading, it is worth buying." Unfortunately, a lack of funds and space often tends to make book buying and collecting difficult to do. Despite that lack, I have seriously collected the works of Dale L. Morgan, renowned author and editor of scores of books and articles on the American West, including Utah. Some of his better-known books are *Utah: A Guide to the State, Jedediah Smith and the Opening of the West,* and the volume I want to discuss here, *The Great Salt Lake,* published originally in 1947 and reprinted numerous times.

I am incredibly fortunate to own a beautiful first-edition copy of this marvelous book, which has a "to die for" inscription in the front by Morgan to "long-time confidant," Madeline McQuown, in which he declares that this is "the first copy of my second book." Now, lest you think I'm boasting, I must confess that before I decided to write about this book that Bernard DeVoto calls "the only authoritative one ever published" on the Great Salt Lake, I had never read more than isolated parts of it. I was embarrassed by that fact and determined to read the book in its entirety. The wait was too long but well worth it.

Dale Morgan is considered one of the West's preeminent historians not only because of his extraordinary ability to research original and printed sources, but also because he is able to narrate the history he has gleaned from them in prose that would be the envy of any novelist. The first paragraph of the book illustrates the point: "Great Salt Lake is unique among the great American lakes, arresting in its name, yet least known. Its name itself has an aura of the strange and the mysterious, but it resists those who would know it. Lake of paradoxes, in a country where water is life itself and land has little value without it, Great Salt Lake is an ironical joke of nature—water that is itself more desert than a desert."

I can't improve on Harold Schindler's summary and assessment of this "remarkable book:" "It was to be a history of a lake...instead, in the hands of this gifted young writer it also became a history of western exploration and settlement. What might have been a ponderous tome, stilted and dry, was shaped, nurtured, and coddled into a charming narrative that breathed life into America's dead sea. *The Great Salt Lake* thrives while other histories are lost on the shelves of time. Between these covers the reader will discover the romance, the drama, the adventures, and the sorrows welling from one of the great wonders of the world—recounted as never before, by a matchless scholar."

Another Morgan disciple, Will Bagley, writes that "few historians have told this fantastic story with more insight, affection, or skill than this masterful writer and compelling chronicler of the past."

Curt Bench, owner of Benchmark Books, Salt Lake City. **cbench@netzero.net**

Godfather of Ute Football, continued

hand in building a ten-foot-high board fence around the entire field so that spectators no longer had free access to the sidelines. Instead, they paid to sit in the newly built stands.

Completion of the quarter-mile running track meant one more job for Cummings. He took responsibility for lining up the timers and other officials for track and field meets. Most were faculty colleagues.

By 1910 the field had 5,000 seats and had been officially named Cummings Field. The field was used year-round for physical education classes and intramural competitions. The annual game between East and West high schools was held at the field, as well as statewide track and field championships. A few members of the 1924 U.S. Olympic track team stopped off on their way to California to stage an exhibition meet with local college stars. Best known of the group was Charley Paddock, who had won sprint medals at the 1920 and 1924 Olympics.

With all his work in athletics, Cummings did not neglect academics. He became dean of the school of Arts and Science in 1906 and was acting dean of the medical school for a year. He spent most of his summers in southern Utah and northern Arizona collecting prehistoric artifacts—thus earning the title of Professor of Anthropology in addition to Professor of Languages. In 1902 he won election to the Salt Lake City School Board.

In 1915, 22 years after arriving in Utah, Cummings resigned and took a prestigious professorship at the University of Arizona. About ten years later he became president of the school.

In the early 1950s I had the pleasure of meeting Byron Cummings. He was on a sentimental journey to Utah and had just enjoyed a visit with President A. Ray Olpin. Professor Kerr was escorting him and brought him to my office for a brief visit. He seemed pleased to hear that I had attended games on "his" field back in 1924.

When I read his obituary a couple of years later, I was surprised to learn that he was 93 years old. I would have guessed he was only in his 70s. He had obviously followed his own philosophy on physical fitness.

Parry Sorensen is professor emeritus in the Department of Communication at the University of Utah.

JUMP iN

HANDS-ON HISTORY FOR KIDS AND OTHER ADVENTURERS

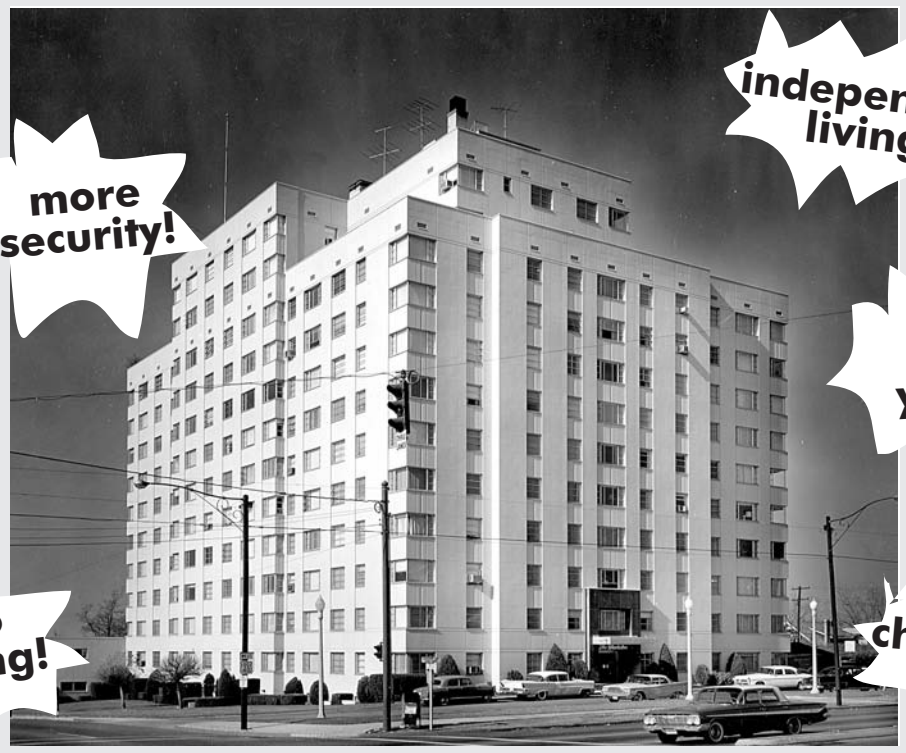
Do you live in an apartment? Or maybe in a condo?

Apartments are buildings with separate spaces for many families.

When do you think the first apartment building in Utah was built? Around 20 years ago? 100 years ago? 200 years ago?

If you guessed around 100 years, you're right. Salt Lake City was growing fast at that time, and people needed more housing. 180 apartment buildings were built in Salt Lake City between 1902 and 1931. After that, the Great Depression slowed down construction.

Apartment developers advertised many advantages of apartment living—such as:



The Charleston Apartments on 1300 East and 400 South, which were built in 1950.

Cliff dwellings were kind of prehistoric apartment houses

The Ancestral Pueblo people also built lots of multi-family buildings—usually high up on cliffs.

Guess when the first cliff dwelling was built. Around 300 years ago? 1,000 years ago? 2,000 years ago? If you guessed around 1,000 years ago, you are right. Although the cliff dwellings were kind of like apartment buildings, they were different too.

Did cliff dwellings have the same advantages as apartments? Let's look and see.

The ruins of a very big cliff dwelling at Mesa Verde, Colorado. It shows you how these prehistoric "apartments" were built.

close to everything!

Well, yes, cliff dwellings *were* close to everything. But we don't mean movies, shopping, and banks. Cliff dwellings were close to the things the Ancestral Puebloans needed, like water sources and crops (though usually the people had to climb up or down the cliff to get to water or to their fields).

freedom from yardwork!

Not at all. A cliff dwelling wasn't a vacation home or a place to retire. Ancestral Puebloans did not have to mow lawns, but they did have to plant, weed, water, guard, and harvest their crops. Now *that's* yardwork!

more security!

Yes indeed. Living up on those cliffs made it hard for other people to raid the community food supplies. The Ancestral Puebloans stored corn and other food on the cliffs in stone structures called granaries.

independent living!

No way! You wouldn't live in a cliff house so you could to get out on your own. Your whole extended family would be right there. You would all live together in very close quarters.

cheaper than a house!

Probably not. Cliff dwellings were harder to build than other kinds of housing of the time. In fact, some of them were four stories high. So you couldn't exactly call them "cheaper."

The Utah History Fair

WHAT IS IT?

Jaimee Goodwine was a junior at a Millcreek High School, an alternative high school in St. George, when she heard about the Utah History Fair last year. Her teacher explained that the winners would go to Washington D.C. to compete in the nationals. That was motivation enough. Jaimee decided to go for it—and her exhibit won the state competition.

This year, Jaimee and her brother Dave, also a student at Millcreek High, competed together—and won again. Last June they went to Washington D.C. with their exhibit, "AC/DC: Nikola Tesla Takes a Stand against Edison."

The Utah History Fair is for students in grades four through twelve. First, students do primary historical research on a topic related to the yearly theme. Then they analyze their research. Finally, using their research, they create exhibits, papers, video documentaries, or live performances.

"The History Fair turns ordinary kids into historians," says Phil Notarianni, director of State History, which provides support to the Utah History Fair. "They experience the excitement of discovery."

> "I absolutely love the History Fair."

The Utah History Fair is headquartered at Utah State University. Michael Johnson, director, believes that "students do best when they build upon their strengths and pursue topics that interest them."

The theme for 2006-2007 will be "Triumph and Tragedy in History." Utah students in grades four through twelve can enter, whether or not their schools participate.

"I absolutely love the History Fair," says Katherine Wood, Jaimee's teacher. "I think it's one of the best things that can happen in a school. It's a great tool for learning and builds so many wonderful skills and interests. History stops being memorization and comes alive."

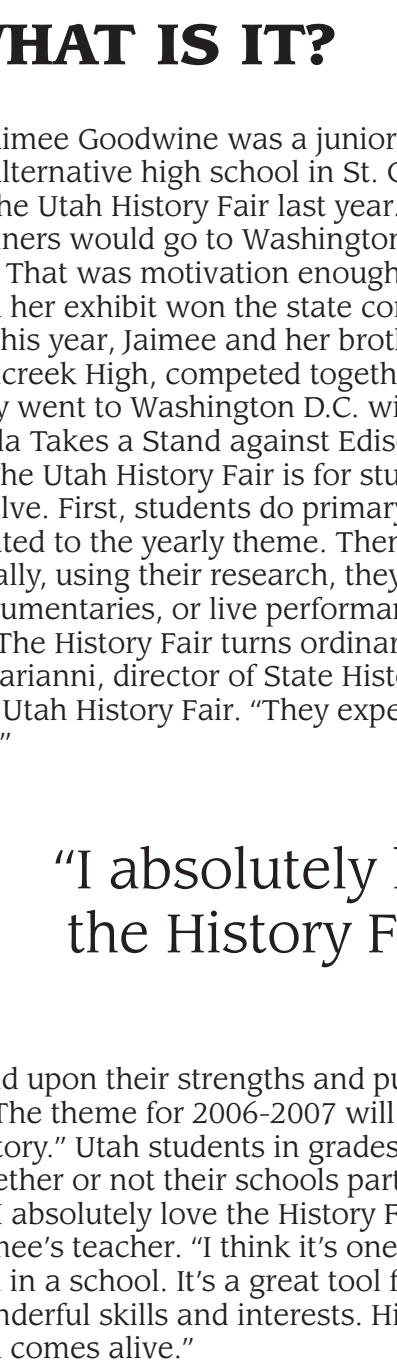
As for Jaimee, the Utah History Fair provided her first plane ride. But it did much more. "It got me more excited about learning stuff. I know how to research better, and it will help me in college. I learned how to present something to judges and met a lot of people; I was kind of shy before I did this."

Her overall assessment? "The History Fair is really cool."

For more information on the Utah History Fair, see **history.utah.gov**; click "Education and Outreach."

Utah's first cataract operation

was probably performed by Dr. Romania Bunnell Pratt Penrose. Penrose left Utah to attend medical school in New York and Philadelphia while her children were still little. Brigham Young helped pay the expenses, and in 1877 she became Utah's first woman to hold a Medical Doctor degree. She had particular skills in treating eyes and ears, but was also known for her obstetric skills. An ardent supporter of woman suffrage, Penrose was a leader on several fronts in early Utah.



WHY HISTORY MATTERS

And how the History Fair is creating a new generation of insightful adults

by Kiyomi MacDonald

Controversial issues are typically addressed by those in power, those with the most information, or those who are reputable and respectable.

There is one time, however, when a flood of teenagers has the opportunity to thoroughly research, create, and present projects that focus on debatable issues: the History Fair. This empowering experience opens the intellectual doors for youth to step forward and explore the past in a way that, without History Fair, would probably never be realized.

Recently, I studied the circumstances surrounding the "NO/NOs." Confined to the Tule Lake Segregation Center, this group of approximately 18,000 Japanese-Americans refused to answer affirmatively two questions on a loyalty questionnaire—hence the name NO/NO.

Although there were myriad reasons for their resistance, their acts stood firmly in defense of democracy. They were denied their rights by several authorities and harassed and neglected by the government, the War Relocation Administration (WRA), and, ironically, the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL). Now these once-ostracized prisoners are becoming recognized for their near-heroic stand.

> "I have discovered a hidden power in history."

From History Fair I have gleaned two valuable insights. First, I know what the NO/NOs experienced and endured, their motivations and inspirations, and the effects of their resistance.

Second, I have discovered a hidden power in history—an ability to predict human behavior. The truths and patterns that can be discovered in history are vital today. We must, even in times of fear, recognize and understand what we do and how it affects so many others.

At the History Fair competitions I perused many exhibits whose themes paralleled prominent problems in the world today: racism, terror, injustice. If all those who participated in History Fair can retain the information they absorbed during careful research, a new generation of insightful adults will be sent out into the world to counter the dilemmas with wisdom from history.

Kiyomi MacDonald, from Emery High School, won first place in the state competition for her exhibit on the No/No Boys (Exhibits, Senior Division). In the photo above, she talks about her research during the state competition.